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GROUP 1600

F A C S I M I L E C O V E R S H E E T

TO: Art Unit 1645

Examiner: Richard D. Hutson

CLIENT NAME/NUMBER: 22201_UT

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FROM: Enrique G. Estevez

DATE: March 6, 2003

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 4 (Four)

COMMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS:

Attached is the following:

1. Response to Restriction Requirement and Preliminary Amendment

Patent application of:

Michael Blaber, et al.

Serial No.

10/037,633

Filing Date:

January 3, 2002

Title: Synthetic Nucleic Acid Sequences For 2,5-Diketo-D-Gluconic Acid Reductases
And Associated Methods

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

MICHAEL BLABER ET AL.

Serial No. 10/037,633

Filing Date: January 3, 2002

For: **SYNTHETIC NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCES FOR 2,5-DIKETO-D-GLUCONIC ACID REDUCTASES AND ASSOCIATED METHODS**

Examiner: Richard D. Hutson

Art Unit: 1645

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on January 24, 2002, please enter the election and amend the above application as follows.

Election of Claims

Applicant, with traverse, elects the claims in Group I for further prosecution at this time. that is, Claims 1-18 and 40-43. Applicant, however, respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction as to Groups I and II for the reasons set forth below.

In the Claims

Please cancel without prejudice non-elected Claims 38, 39, 44-48, and 53-58.